

## Taking flight...ready to soar

Ranges TEC is about helping students find their wings and take flight in the path that is right for them. As we all know, this doesn't happen in a moment; there is much work, time, effort, prayer, struggle, teaching and love in guiding a young person to their 'flight'.

Recently I saw a magnificent Wedge-tail eagle flying with its young, and I reflected on the development and progression of a young eagle learning to soar... the loving care and protection of the eggs and new chicks; the growth in the chick's strength as its feathers fill out and magnificent wings develop... all in preparation for being able to 'soar'. But are they ready for what lies ahead? The baby eagles are no longer chicks, but they aren't adult eagles either. They are in an in-between age. A challenging time. A time when the chicks have to grow up whether they like it or not. A time when parents need to let go ready or not. Flying isn't something that is mastered in one moment - it takes time to learn. But they get there and it is fantastic seeing them soar through the air.

As a parent and teacher, I think I know how the parents of a young eagle feel when they see their chicks take to the sky and fly. Seeing a few successful flights, the joy of that image warms our soul.

There is not enough room for me to list all the times in 2018 that we witnessed our students taking flight and soaring in their chosen field. But here are three of my highlights of 2018 at Ranges TEC that have been an absolute delight:

- Ruth, a Year 11 student, designed and built a large dining table out of hardwood and steel; it was incredible. She has now taken the table home so unfortunately I miss out on showing it off to visiting tours as an example of the workmanship of our students.
- Spencer, another of our Year 11 students built an exceptional wheelbarrow, which was a very challenging design. He persevered and it came up a treat.
- Dropping in on 'The Purple Patch' Community Garden (a Community Project with Melba services, led by one of our Year 10 teachers, Rachael) and seeing our students using their newly-established skills to serve the community and make a difference. (Purple Patch photos by Miko Holt).

This year we have seen so many of our students take those fledgling steps to take flight and learn to soar; they have been inspiring. Ranges TEC provides a safe, supportive environment for our students to learn new skills, complete their secondary education, mature that little bit more, and take off in their chosen field of expertise.

**Ric Thorpe**  
Ranges TEC Director



*Celebrating 45 Years*

